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## Landfill neighbors say dump worse than study

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Southern Jefferson County residents living near the Lees Lane Landfill voiced disagreement last night with a recent report that the site poses no immediate threat to the public's health or to the environment.

About 100 residents met at Riverside Baptist Church, 4317 Lees Lane, with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency officials and representatives from NUS Corp., the company that prepared the report on the landfill.

The landfill, which is a 112-acre tract adjacent to the Ohio River and just upstream from Louisville Gas & Electric Co.'s Cane Run Station, has been on EPA's Superfund list since 1982.

The report on the \$500,000 study will be considered along with comments from residents to determine what will be done about the site, said Beverly Houston of EPA's regional office in Atlanta.

Ms. Houston said after the meeting that residents may send letters to EPA until Nov. 6. She said EPA should decide what it wants to do about the landfill by March.

Although the study found no immediate health or risks to the environment, it recommended that contaminated ground water and continued production of methane gas by decaying material be monitored.

At last night's hearing, residents cited health problems, dying wildlife and air contamination in their complaints to the officials.

Many residents expressed concern about the potential for explosions in the area. Methane gas is present on the landfill site, and a chemical plant and power station are nearby.

Many residents also complained

about the county's role in maintaining the gas-collection system it installed in 1980 to prevent methane from moving toward the Riverside Gardens neighborhood. The study found that the system is only 42 percent operational.

In answer to a question posed from a resident, Greg Schank, an NUS geologist, said that cancer-causing substances such as polyvinyl chloride had been found on the site, but not in amounts concentrated enough to warrant concern.

Residents said that they suffered health problems and believed that some of their relatives had died of cancer caused by the dump.

"You say we don't have health problems, we say we do," Joanne Schlatter of Wilshire Avenue said. "I guess that's where we differ."

She said that she and her neighbors have suffered from headaches, itchy eyes, extreme nervousness and other ailments.

Dennis Wright of Wilshire Avenue said he worked at the site when it was a sand and gravel quarry. People wearing gas masks would come to the site and dump barrels of chemicals there "after hours," he said.

